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Message Text

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64
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-04 AID-05 EUR-08 ACDA-05 /076 W
---------- 092383
R 231540Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9738
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 8418

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, UN, IS
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL SILLASVUO RE UNEF

1. DURING CONVERSATION OCTOBER 23 WITH EMBOFFS, GENERAL SIIL-ASVUO, UNEF COMMANDER, PORTRAYED SITUATION IN BUFFER AREA BE-TWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL AS CALM. HE INDICATED THERE WERE NO REAL PROBLEMS AND SAID HE RECEIVED ONLY A FEW OCCASIONAL COMPLAINTS BUT NONE OF SERIOUS NATURE.

2. SILLASVUO COULD NOT UNDERSTAND REASON FOR USSR OBJECTIONS TO COST OF MAINTAINING UNEF FORCE WHICH HE THOUGHT NOT UN-REASONABLE, PARTICULARLY CONSIDERING VALUABLE SERVICE BEING PERFORMED. HE GRANTED THAT CONTINGENTS FROM DEVELOPED COUN-TRIES WERE MORE EXPENSIVE BUT, ON OTHER HAND, HE ADMITTED PRIVATELY THEY WERE MORE USEFUL IN HIS OPERATION.

3. UNEF COMMANDER ALSO REPORTED THAT MORALE AND BEHAVIOR OF HIS TROOPS UNUSUALLY GOOD DESPITE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THEY PERFORMED. HE CONCLUDED BY NOTING THAT ATMOSPHERE IN SINAI AREA MUCH MORE FAVORABLE THAN THAT IN GOLAN HEIGHTS.

4. EMBASSY, AND PARTICULARLY DEFENSE ATTACHE, HAS HEARD NO
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UNFAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM EGYPTIAN MILITARY REGARDING UNEF

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ROLE OR PERFORMANCE.
EILTS

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